

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending, claims 18-20 having been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, the Abstract and claim 1 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 can be found, for example, in original claim 1. The amendments to claim 1 are made solely to improve its clarity. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Abstract. By this Amendment, the Abstract is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-6, 8-12 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,518,586 to Mirous et al. ("Mirous"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] process for producing a veil comprising glass fibers and cellulose fibers, comprising: dispersing cellulose fibers and chopped glass fibers into a white water; forming a bed in a forming device by passage of the dispersion over a forming fabric through which the white water is drained off, the fibers being retained on the fabric and the dispersion comprising, during passage, a cationic white water; and performing a heat treatment in an oven device" (emphasis added). Mirous does not disclose or suggest such a process.

Mirous discloses a process in which glass fibers are dispersed into a dispersant medium including water and hydroxyethyl cellulose. See Mirous, column 2, line 54 to column 3, line 1. Mirous does not disclose employing a combination of cellulose fibers and

glass fibers. The hydroxyethylcellulose employed in Mirous is derived from cellulose but is not cellulose fibers. As can be seen, for example, at <http://www.answers.com/topic/hydroxyethylcellulose?cat=technology>, hydroxyethylcellulose is "a white powder made from cellulose, used for textile finishes and as a thickener for water-base paints." The present specification discusses the use of hydroxycellulose. See present specification, page 4 lines 26 to 30 ("The white water may include a thickener in order to increase the viscosity of the white water. This thickener may for example be a hydroxyethyl cellulose ... Hydroxyethyl cellulose is an anionic-type compound."). However, the hydroxycellulose is an optional thickener, not a fibrous component used to form a veil.

Applicants note that the present specification further indicates that

Maintaining cationicity of the white water does not exclude the presence in said white water, if necessary, of ingredients having an anionic, nonionic or amphoteric (i.e. both cationic and anionic) character since, in general, the overall cationicity of the white water is ensured by the presence of at least one other ingredient exhibiting cationicity.

See present specification, page 3, lines 4 to 8. Mirous discloses that that hydroxyethylcellulose is cationic, but that "the addition of an anionic phosphate ester to the urea-formaldehyde resin acts to negate the cationic charge of hydroxyethyl cellulose." See Mirous, column 5, lines 18 to 22. Thus it is apparent that the method of Mirous employs an anionic white water, and not a cationic white water as recited in claim 1. See also Mirous, column 2, line 66 to column 3, line 3.

For the reasons discussed above, Mirous does not anticipate claim 1, and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made. However, even if a *prima facie* case were made, such case is rebutted by the results shown in the present specification – "[a] *prima facie* case of obviousness ... is rebuttable by proof that the claimed compounds possess unexpectedly advantageous or superior properties." See MPEP §2144.09 (citing *In re Papesch*, 315 F.2d 381 (C.C.P.A. 1963)). The Examples of the present specification

demonstrate that methods employing a cationic white water, such as recited in claim 1, provide veils having superior properties relative to veils made by methods employing anionic white water, as in Mirous. *See, e.g.*, present specification, pages 7 to 9. These results are objective evidence of the improvements of the process of claim 1 over known processes as in Mirous, and thus these results rebut any suggestion that it would have been obvious to modify the process of Mirous to obtain the process of claim 1.

As Mirous fails to disclose or suggest a method in which cellulose fibers and a cationic white water are employed, Mirous fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

As explained, claim 1 is not anticipated by Mirous. Claims 4-6, 8-12 and 15-17 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Mirous. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mirous. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For the reasons discussed above, claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by Mirous. Claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Mirous.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

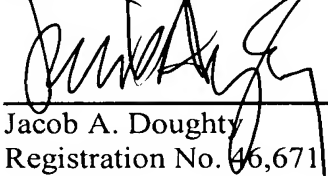
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Substitute Abstract